

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/13573	International filing date (day/month/year) 01.12.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 19.12.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC D06L1/12		
Applicant UNILEVER N.V.		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

 These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - ☐ Priority
 - ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - ☐ Certain documents cited
 - ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 04.06.2004	Date of completion of this report 17.03.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Fiocco, M Telephone No. +31 70 340-4538 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/EP 03/13573

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-37 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

4-9 as originally filed

1-3 received on 10.12.2004 with letter of 09.12.2004

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/13573**

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP 03/13573

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: WO 02/053824 A (UNILEVER PLC ;LEVER HINDUSTAN LTD (IN); UNILEVER NV (NL)) 11 July 2002 (2002-07-11)

D2: WO 02/50366 A (GEN ELECTRIC) 27 June 2002 (2002-06-27)

2 **INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1**

Document **D1**, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (cf. **example 1**) an dry cleaning process from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that the surfactant is an acid surfactant.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as to find a dry cleaning process in which the redeposition of particulate soil is minimized.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons: none of the cited documents suggests that a reduced redeposition of particulate soil is obtained if an acid surfactant is used in a dry cleaning composition. Some acid surfactants are mentioned in D2; however D2 does not address the problem mentioned above. A person skilled in the art would not have combined the teachings of D1 and D2 to solve the above mentioned problem without the exercise of inventive skills.

3 **DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-9**

Claims 2-9 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

WO 2004/057093

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PCT/EP2003/013573

10.12.2004

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(72)

Claims

1. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning comprising a dry cleaning step of contacting a laundry article stained with particulate soil with a dry cleaning composition wherein the liquor to cloth ratio (w/w) (LCR) is at most 20, and wherein said composition comprises
- a) a non-flammable, non-chlorine containing organic dry cleaning solvent;
- 10 b) ~~a cleaning effective amount (an acid surfactant.~~
from 0.05 to 0.9 % by weight of)
2. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to claim 1 wherein the dry cleaning step is a low aqueous dry cleaning step and said composition is a low aqueous dry
- 15 cleaning composition comprising 0.01 to 10 wt.% of water.
3. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to claim 2 wherein the low aqueous dry cleaning composition comprises ~~from 0.001 to 10 wt.%, preferably from 0.05 to 0.9~~ ^{0.1} ^{0.8}
- 20 wt.% of an acid surfactant by weight of the total dry cleaning composition.
4. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to any one of the preceding claims whereby said liquid to cloth
- 25 ratio (w/w) is at most 10.
5. A dry cleaning process for in-home dry cleaning according to any one of the preceding claims whereby the dry cleaning composition is a low aqueous dry cleaning composition and
- 30 comprises 0.01 to 10 wt.% of water and preferably the water to cloth ratio (w/w) during the low aqueous dry cleaning step is less than 0.45, preferably less than 0.2.